Access-ALAS

Frequently Asked Questions

Questions / Statements	Responses
General / Access-ALAS notebook	Print or download the notebook from: www.dot.state.ia.us/alas.
General / Collision Diagrams	The Intersection Magic software will create composite collision diagrams for intersections.
General / Hard drive full	Put crash data on a local area network (LAN); use a zip disk; buy a bigger hard drive
General / High crash locations	High crash locations can be found by: consulting the Candidate List at www.dot.state.ia.us/alas ; using one of the ALAS crash analysis software programs (Access-ALAS or GIS-ALAS); or by contacting Iowa State University Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) and asking for the Iowa Traffic Safety Data Service.
General / New software What new software is available?	Read "Overview" on www.dot.state.ia.us/alas
General / Node Map	The Iowa Node Map is found on the Access-ALAS CD and on the web site at: www.dot.state.ia.us/alas. This map lists node numbers for the state of Iowa.
General / Node Numbers	Not every crash has a point on the map due to a variety of reasons: no node exists at that point; no node has been assigned to that point; or a "non-valid" node number was used (typo, etc.)
General / Software updates How do we update Access-ALAS?	The current version is available at: www.dot.state.ia.us/alas
Data / 1998	First edition 1998 data (on a CD by itself) was duplicated. (The 1998 data was listed twice in the database.)
Data / Add (see: Updates)	Add new years of crash data with the ALAS Utility program. Jurisdiction button (example: County) / then Step 4 "Append"
Data / ALASmerge file	This file contains crash data for all 99 Iowa counties. It is on a CD supplied to users by the Iowa DOT. You must use the ALAS Utility program to copy the crash data for your jurisdiction to your Computer.
Data / ALASsubset.mdb Can't find the file	You may not have CREATED the file. Launch the ALAS Utility program and click on the CREATE ALASsubset database button.

Data / Convert database	Access-ALAS was created using MS Access97. If you have a newer version of MS Access and launch Access-ALAS, you may get a message asking if you want to "convert" the Access97 database to your newer MS Access format. Just say "no".
Data / Date Parameters	When "0 crashes found", be sure the parameter date matches available data years (searching for 1991 crashes with 1993-99 data).
Data / Delete	Find the data file (Alassubset.mdb or Storysubset.mdb or Amessubset.mdb, or ISP4subset.mdb, or RPAsubset.mdb, or DOT1subset.mdb, etc.) ; then RIGHT click that file ; then DELETE.
Data / File Name	Access-ALAS is programmed to look for the data file: ALASsubset.mdb. If your data does NOT have that exact name, (example: STORYsubset.mdb) you must "re-link" Access-ALAS to it.
Data / Location	Access-ALAS is programmed to look for data at C:\ (root directory). If your data is NOT at that location, you must "re-link" Access-ALAS to it.
Data / Mile Point – Mile Post	Data for 1998 and 1999 (with 1993-1999 data on one CD) is missing the mile point and mile post data.
Data / MS Jet database engine Already open by another user	Data is not being found by Access-ALAS or is "Read Only" Use the install folder with same drive letter as your CD drive (the Data installation is "hard coded" to a specific CD drive) If your CD drive letter is not available for installation, contact Tech Support for a solution for your CD drive letter.
Data / New – when available?	New data is sent to trained Access-ALAS users with current contact information on file with Tech Support.
Data / Obtain	New user Iowa crash data can only be obtained in a training class. See: Data / New for the newest data.
Data / Updates (see: Add)	Add new years of crash data with the ALAS Utility program. Jurisdiction button (example: County) / then Step 4 "Append"
Data / Using data without ALAS	Data is only supplied with Access-ALAS.
Installation / General	Install the current version of Access-ALAS (compare to version on the web site at: www.dot.state.ia.us/alas
Installation / OS compatibility	All Microsoft Windows operating systems are supported (98, 2000, NT, ME, XP)
Installation / Can't find program file	Choice of words "program"; provide an easier installation process

Installation / Utility / Drive letter	Select installation folder that corresponds to your drive letter
Installation / Restart	Optional; not required
Installation / File name errors	If clicking on the IGNORE button (during installation) does not solve the problem, use the FIND feature (START button / FIND) to find the problem file name on your hard drive; copy that file; paste that file in the Access-ALAS folder.
Installation / File name error comcat.dll being used	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)
Installation / File name error comcat.dll too old	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)

Installation / File name error
  msrd2x35.dll
  Cannot register
	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)

Installation / File name error
  oleaut32.dll in use
	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)
	  (This was "fixed" in May, 2001)

Installation / File name error
  stdole2.tlb in use
	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)
	  (This was "fixed" in May, 2001)

Installation / File name error urlmon.dll	Click the IGNORE button (during installation)

Installation / LAN	Copy the Access-ALAS "Install" folder to the C: drive of the server.
	  Follow the installation procedure
	  Delete the "Install" folder from the C: drive of the server.
	  Create the data file on the C: drive of each local computer (use the
	    ALAS Utility program which creates "ALASsubset.mdb" file).
	  Note: More than one person at a time can use Access-ALAS on a LAN

Launching Access-ALAS	Because Access-ALAS is a "runtime" (self-contained) program,
	  launch it from the START button; then PROGRAMS;
	  then Access-ALAS; or from a shortcut icon on your desktop.

Launch or Open / File name error
  system.mdw Cannot find
	Use the FIND feature (START button / FIND)
	  to find "system.mdw" on your hard drive; copy that file;
	  paste "system.mdw" in the Access-ALAS folder.
	  Note: There is a "system.mdw" file in the ALAS Utility folder.
	  See: the MS Knowledge Base / Article Q241230 (workgroup info)

Launch or Open / File name error
  system.mdw Missing file   If "system.mdw" cannot be found on your hard drive, copy one
                                   from another computer onto a diskette and copy the "system.mdw"
                                   file into the Access-ALAS folder.
                                   See: the MS Knowledge Base / Article Q241230 (workgroup info)

Query / Literal description   The literal description for a crash (street or highway name) is
                                   provided by one of two sources: the Iowa DOT literal description
                                   table; or by the investigating officer on the hard copy or electronic
                                   copy crash report.

Query / Node String
  Query Too Complex   With enough Random Access Memory (RAM) in a computer, all 20
                                   nodes can be used in a Node String query and this message will not
                                   appear.

Query / (Crash) Rate   Use the Daily Vehicle Miles (DVM) button to obtain a rate.

Query / Same results each time   If check boxes were used to make a selection, SELECT ALL, then
                                   UNSELECT ALL, then make your desired selection for the query.

Query / Same result as previous   If your query produces the same result as the previous query, your
                                   selection for your most recent query was not recognized by Access-
                                   ALAS (example: your first query was for a COUNTY = 10,000; your
                                   next search is for PICKUP TRUCKS = 10,000). You must click the
                                   SELECT ALL button; then click the UNSELECT ALL button; then
                                   select PICKUP TRUCKS = 789.

Query / Zero crashes found   Either there were no crashes at that location; or Access-ALAS could
                                   not find the crash data. Verify the location of your jurisdiction's
                                   crash data and re-link Access-ALAS to that crash data.
                                   Be sure your query is correct (using a node and not a link; using a link
                                   and not a node, using the correct node numbers, etc.).

Reports / Print first 3 reports
  Data type mismatch in criteria
    Expression   Redo the query after having clicked on the CLEANUP UTILITY
                                   button on the STARTUP screen in Access-ALAS. You may have to
                                   use the "DELETE REQUEST" button if your parameters say,
                                   "DELETED" before you can run the query.

Reports / Preview Crashes   After a query has run in Access-ALAS, clicking on the PREVIEW
                                   CRASHES button displays a MS Access table of crash data. The
                                   number of rows of data in this table are NOT equal to the number of
                                   crashes resulting from the query that produced this table. There are
                                   more rows of data than there are crashes.

Yahoo eGroups   It is possible to join an Access-ALAS discussion group and bulletin
                                   board by going to the web site at: www.dot.state.ia.us/alas.

Footnote / Possible OS conflicts

If conflicts are encountered using Access-ALAS, the following articles and web site references possibly be of help:
the MS web site (www.microsoft.com)
the MS Knowledge Base (http://search.support.microsoft.com/kb/c.asp)
Article Q245021 (registry settings)
Article Q276257 (memory leak)
Article Q248910 (open and close form)
Article Q262935 (see if SR-1 patch is installed)
Article Q245025 (obtaining the SR-1 patch and installing it)
Article Q258549 (odd behavior after SR-1 is installed)
The Office 2000 SR-1/Windows 2000 Registry Repair Utility restores the registry settings for several important files that may cause Office 2000 SR-1 applications to behave oddly on Windows 2000.